



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/891,899

Confirmation No.: 2486

Applicant : Kobayashi et al.

Filed : June 26, 2001

TC/A.U. : 1712

Examiner : Marc S. Zimmer

Docket No. : TSL1665

Customer No. : 00137

Date : January 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 03, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.